

# Steps to teaching your students about the 'Digital Camera and Digital Photography'



**Say Cheese**

## **Step One:**

Introduce the digital camera and discuss what it is and why we use them.  
Use the Circle map to brainstorm initial ideas.

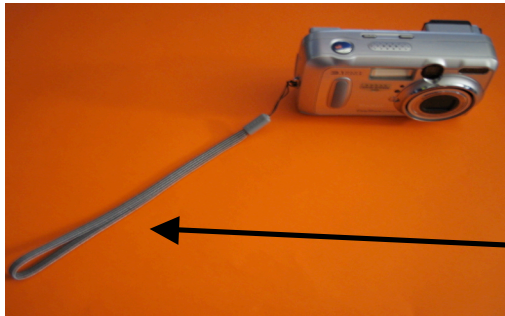
- To record memories
- To tell a story
- To advertise and sell products...

## **Why is it called a digital camera?**

This is because it stores the photos on a memory card (I usually explain this like: How to we remember things? We store them in our brain. (The memory stick is like the cameras brain). You can play them back and decide whether you like them and if you don't you can delete them off.



# Different parts of the camera:



First teach your students about the wrist strap and why we use it. (Safety reasons so that if we drop it, it will not fall and break.)

## WRIST STRAP.



## THE VIEW FINDER.

This is where the students view what their photo would look like.



## THE GO BUTTON (Shutter release button).

This button is a two push button. You press lightly on it until you hear a beep or see a green light shine up, then you push the button the rest of the way down. This makes sure that your photo is in focus.

## THE POWER OR ON AND OFF

BUTTON. This is located on the top of your camera.

## Other functions to think about:



**Macro:** This function allows you to take great close up shots. You find that by using this your close up shots will be in focus and extremely detailed. The Macro function looks like a tulip.

**The Flash:** Show your students how to turn the flash on and off otherwise some of your photos may be over exposed.

# Types of Shots:



**Close Up Shot** This shot shows a smaller part of the subject or scene. It's great for showing detail, like a person's emotional face or individual leaves on a tree. If you were interviewing someone, this shot would show the person from the top of the chest or shoulders up. An **Extreme Close Up Shot** is even closer than a Close Up. For example, it is just of the person's eyes.



**Medium Shot** This shot shows less of a scene than a long shot. The camera seems closer to the subject. For example, if you were interviewing someone, this shot would show them from about the waist up in a medium shot. Use this when you want a closer look at your subject, or when you need to transition between wide shots and close-up shots



## **Long Shot**

A long shot is a shot that shows a scene from a distance. A long shot is used to stress the environment or setting of a scene.

**Extension:** This following information is off the Windows XP website (taking better pictures: composition).

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/default.mspx>

### **Rule of thirds**

First, learn the "rule of thirds." As you look through your camera's viewfinder, imagine there are lines dividing the image into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, essentially dividing your image into nine equal-shaped blocks. Frame your subject at one of the intersection points instead of in the center of the viewfinder, as shown in the following illustration.



### **Framing**

Careful framing of your subject can make a dramatic difference in your photos. Remember—every photo has a foreground and background, so use them together to add an interesting element to the shot.

Use foreground elements to frame your photo's subject.

Architectural elements work well

(windows, doorways, arches, and so on), but you can find any number of interesting elements to use for framing your photos. The important point here is the subject. It doesn't do much good to frame your subject with interesting elements if they overshadow the subject, making it difficult to determine what the subject is supposed to be.





## Visual cropping

Crop your photos visually before you take them. Look into the corners of the viewfinder. Do you see things that shouldn't be there? You can remove, or crop, these elements from your photos simply by moving closer to your subject, zooming in on your subject, or moving your subject within the viewfinder. Try different angles. Look for anything that will diminish the impact of unwanted objects in your photos.



## Angle of the view

Believe it or not, the best angle for a photo is not always upright and directly in front of the subject. Some of the most interesting photographs are those taken from a unique vantage point. Get down to the level of the flowers before taking the picture. Climb a tree to take a picture of a meadow. Always ask yourself if the photo would look better taken as a landscape or portrait shot. Experiment and try different perspectives. Look for angles that are interesting and demonstrate the mood and inspiration you're trying to capture.



## Balance

Achieving good balance in your photographs requires the correct combination of colors, shapes, and areas of light and dark that complements one another. Achieving the right balance in your photos is easier than it appears. Think about your subject and capture it from an angle, viewpoint, or even time of day that focuses attention on the subject.



## Perspective

To capture the essence of what you experience when viewing a scene, it helps to add an element to your photo to convey this perspective. In the following picture, the bow of the boat helps to add an interesting perspective to the vastness of the scene.

Without the bow of the boat in the picture, the scene would be far less interesting and void of any drama.



### **Draw the viewer's eyes through the photo**

A path, a row of telephone poles, or even a line of chairs at the beach can serve as elements in a good photo. These simple guidelines should help you find your "camera's eye." The key is to experiment and have fun, and the resulting photos will wow anyone who sees them.

